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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 12 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to attach herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 1 March 2010, addressed to the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations (see annex), and kindly request you to circulate it as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Pedro **Núñez Mosquera**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

10-27200 (E) 170310

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Annex to the letter dated 12 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the dangerous and provocative incident caused by a group of persons in front of the Mission of Cuba on Sunday 28 February 2010.

At 13:20, a group of around 30 persons arrived at the main entrance of the Mission and began to make a lot of noise, shouting offensive and insulting slogans and making threatening gestures, and placed numerous offensive posters at the main entrance of the Mission and exterior windows on Lexington Avenue.

The group remained at the main entrance for some time, thus blocking the free passage of our personnel, interfering in the performance of the Mission, and creating all conditions to escalate the situation into a violent physical confrontation.

At 13:30, the New York police arrived at the site and requested the provocative persons to leave the front of the Mission. Some of them continued moving around the Mission for some time, shouting insulting slogans and filming and photographing the Mission and its staff. The New York police cars left at about 13:50.

The Mission of Cuba strongly denounces this hostile and illegal act, which was a flagrant violation of the procedures established in the United States Mission's note No. HC-33-95 of 9 June 1995 aiming to eliminate potential clashes and conditions considered as interference with the performance of the functions of the Mission of Cuba.

Actions of this nature endanger the security of the Mission and Cuban officials and impede the normal performance of the functions of this Diplomatic Mission.

The hostile incident that occurred yesterday is not at all an isolated one. For many years, the Mission of Cuba has been informing the United States Mission about many hostile actions perpetrated against the premises of the Mission and its staff, including repeated incidents, some of them very violent in nature, at the entrance door of the Mission.

There are many terrorists and criminals of Cuban origin settled in the United States who constitute a threat to the facilities and personnel of the Cuban Mission.

The decision taken in November 2007 by the Diplomatic Security Service and the New York Police Department to unilaterally remove the police protection from the Mission not only facilitates but is also an incentive for such hostile and provocative activities against the Mission.

In several previous notes, the Mission of Cuba has conveyed to the United States Mission its concerns with regard to the unilateral removal of police protection from the Mission.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba wishes to stress the responsibility of the United States authorities regarding the security and protection of Diplomatic Missions, including the Mission of Cuba, and requests the United States Mission to

take all necessary steps with the relevant authorities to prevent the repetition of such dangerous actions as that mentioned above.

The Mission of Cuba demands that the United States authorities guarantee the security and physical integrity of the Mission and its staff, and that the Host Country strictly abides by the Headquarters Agreement signed between the United States Government and the United Nations and by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961, which establishes that "The receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity".